

# Common Origination and Disbursement: How May My School Become a Full Participant in 2003-04?

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#### **Presenters**

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- Linda Sigh Assistant Director, Office of Financial Aid, Michigan State University
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- □ Sharon Barfield COD Requirements Lead, Modernization Partner
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- Wood Mason Client Account Manager, Atlanta, FSA
- Ethan Huber School Relations Manager, COD Customer Service, Modernization Partner

### Session Objectives

- Walk-through of your online access to COD
- Early school partners share their preparations
- Notes on '03-'04 COD system development
- Why EDExpress users will be full participants
- Outreach and training up to this point
- Customer care now / initial thoughts on full participant support in '03-'04

### **COD Participation**

- A school's "participant" status is determined by the method used to transmit student data to COD:
  - Full Participants
    - Schools that submit data using the COD Common Record Layout in XML format
  - ➤ Phase-In Participants
    - Schools that submit data using Pell Grant/Direct Loan Record Layouts in fixed-length, flat file format

#### What is XML?

- XML: eXtensible Markup Language
- XML is the standard language of e-business and the internet
- XML is technology-neutral allowing trading partners to use different technologies in their own applications
- XML data files are mchine and human readable
- XML is extensible additional student financial resource data (FFEL, ISIR, State Grant, etc.) can be added easily

### Benefits of COD – Full Participants

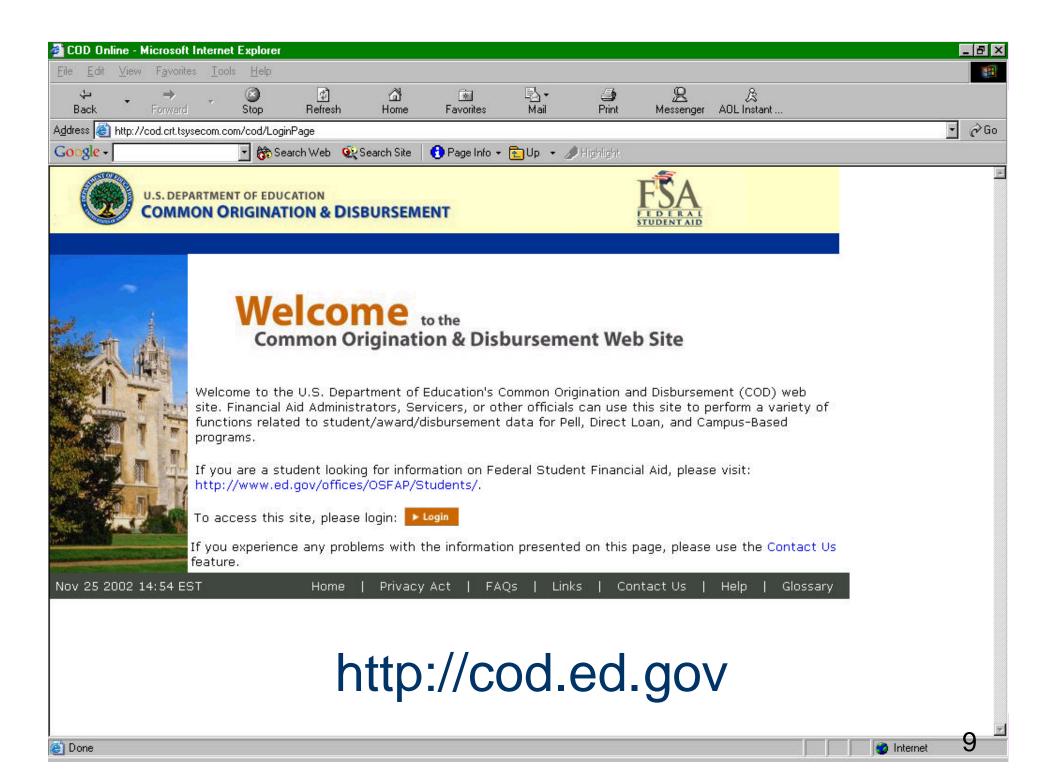
- Student-centric Common Record provides potential for fewer transmissions and scheduling problems
- Flexible record format allows you to send required data only
- Same process for reporting changes for Pell Grants and Direct Loans
- Optional reporting of data elements (required today) that already exist in CPS
- Optional campus-based reporting to pre-populate portions of the FISAP

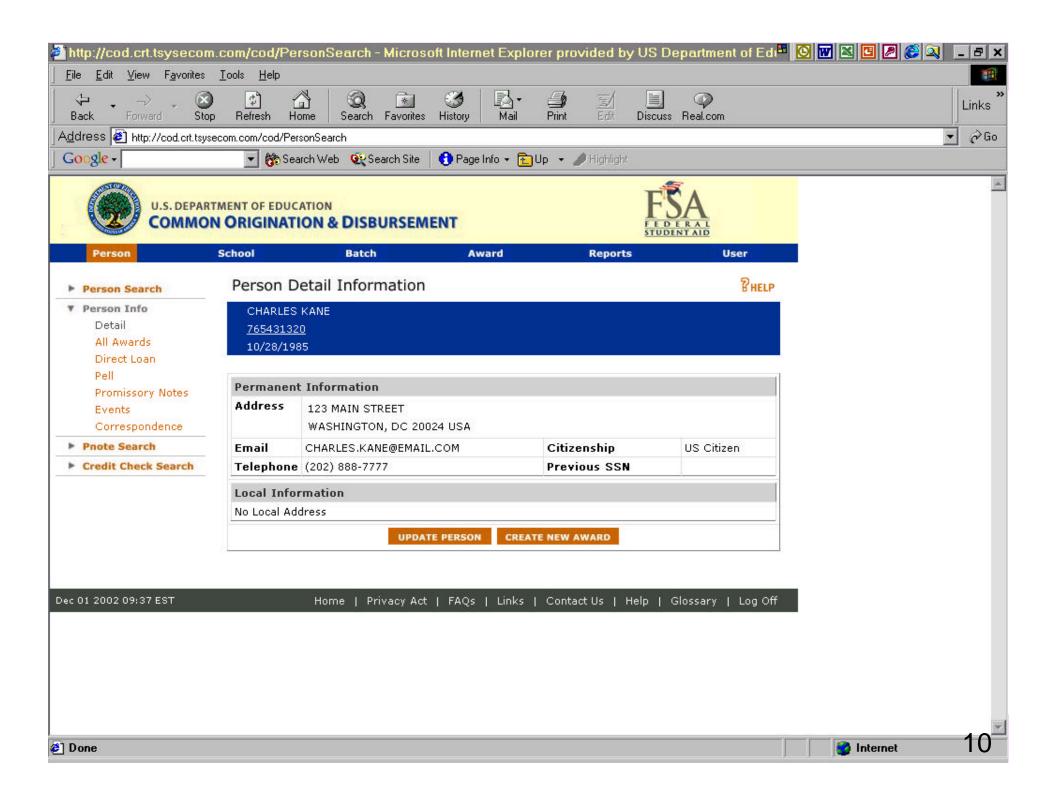
#### Benefits of COD – All Schools

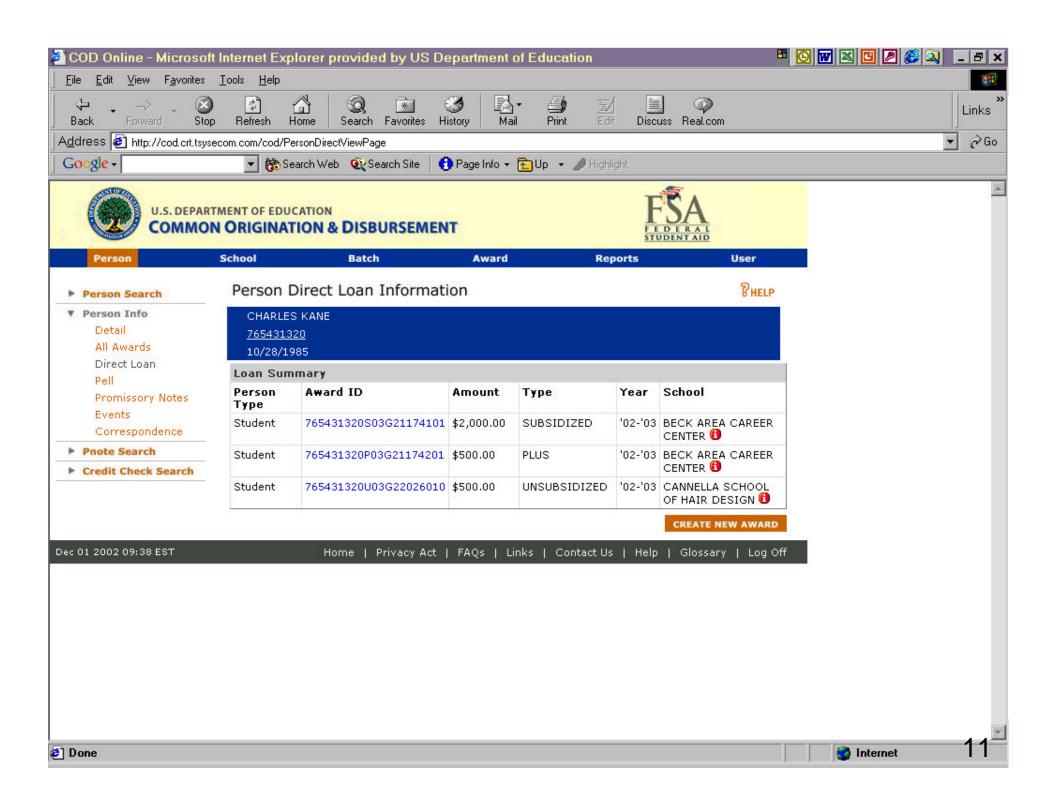
- Integrated Customer Service
- Fully Web-enabled system available 24/7
- Faster processing whether submitted via batch or online update
- Reduced turnaround time for exception processing, due to stream-lined edits & fewer rejects
- Enhanced reconciliation and cash management tools
- Integrated funding information for Pell Grants and Direct Loans
- Schools/FSA Staff and CSRs view the same information via the COD website

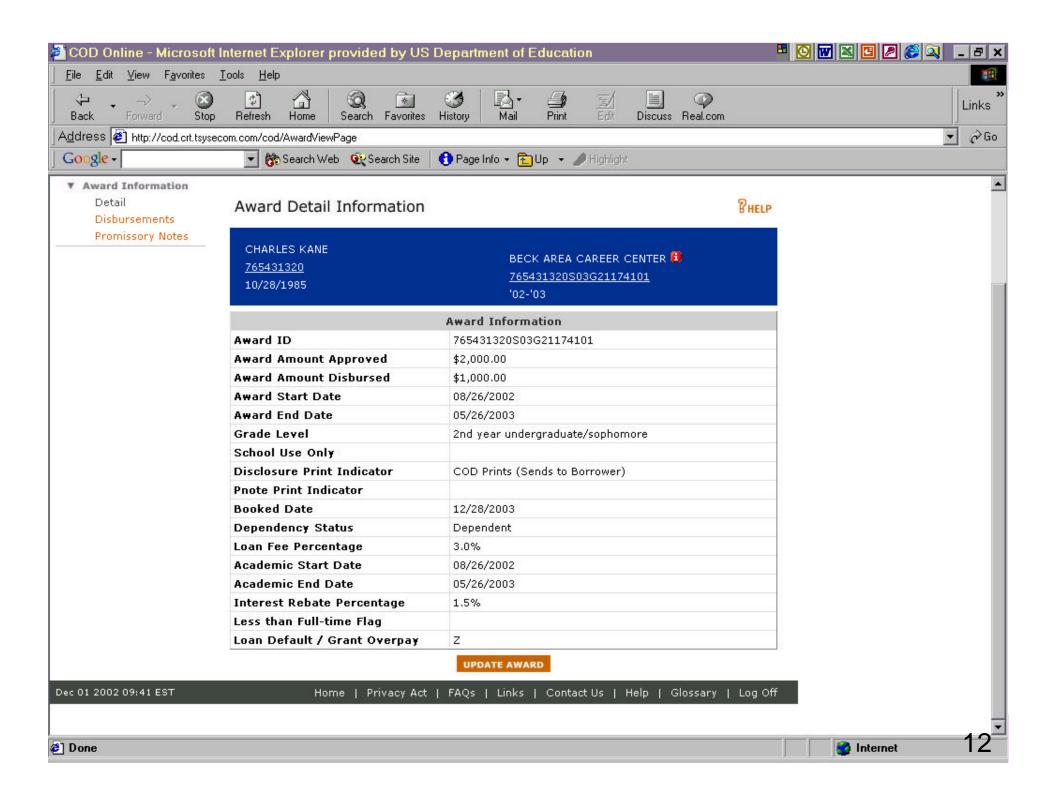
# How do I Obtain Access to the COD Website?

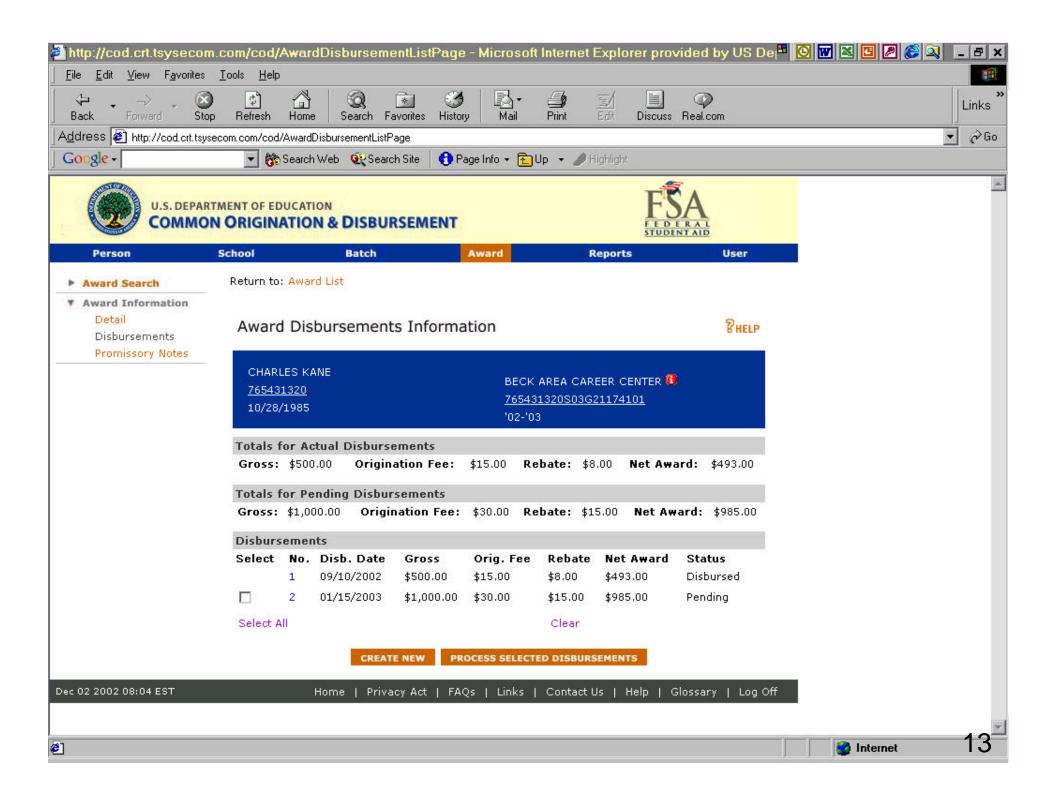
- Identify a Security Administrator for your school
  - Responsible for establishing other users within your school
  - Reporting/Funding school relationships will automatically allow access to other school codes
- Submit Security Administrator Request Letter on university or corporate letterhead
- Refer to the COD Website Access Announcement on IFAP for detailed instructions
  - Updated: COD Website Access for Schools June 3, 2002
  - COD Website Access for Vendors/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Servicers June 3, 2003

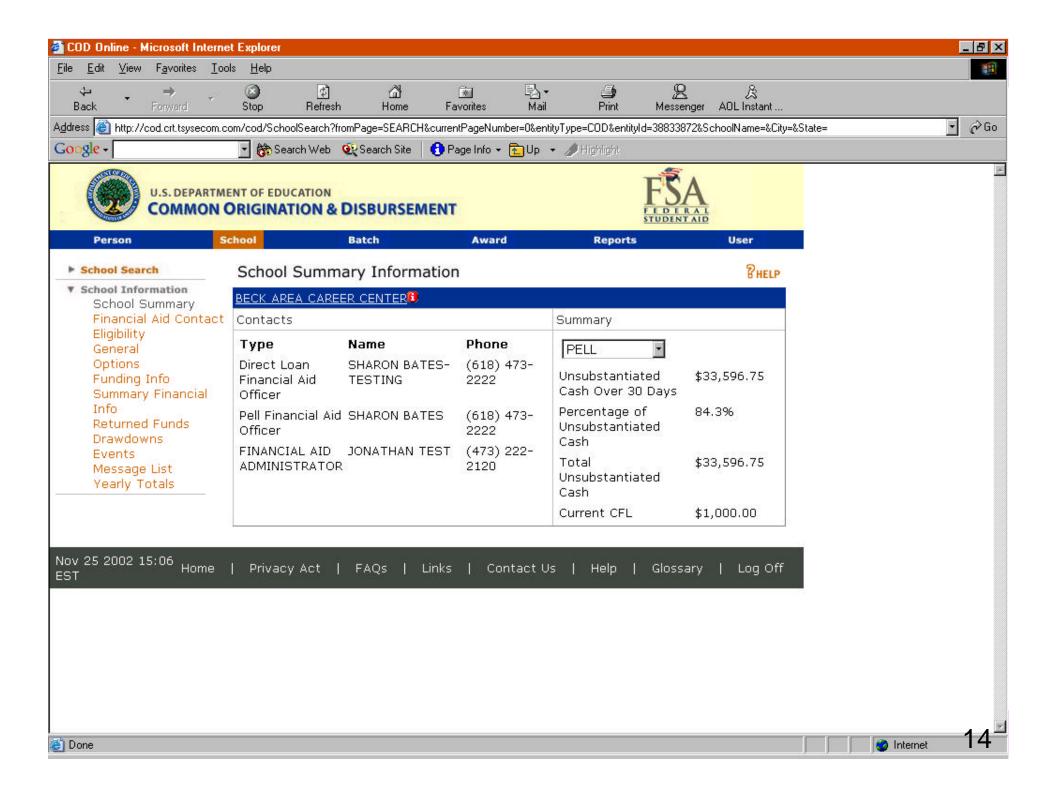


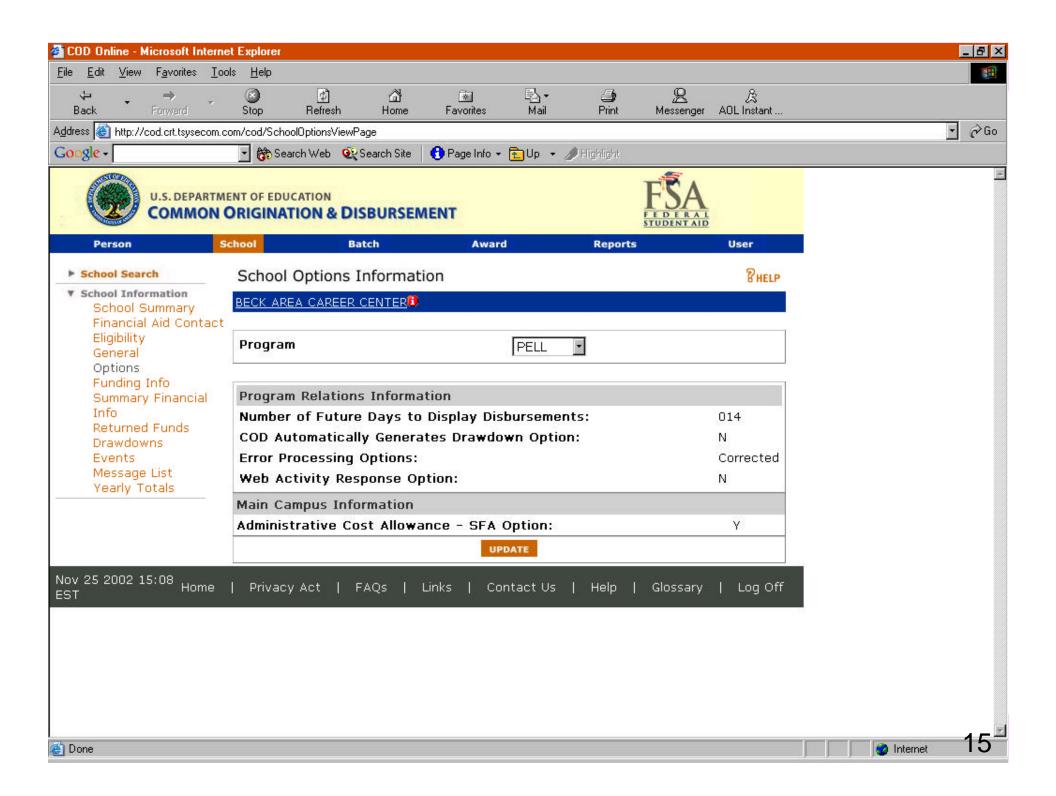


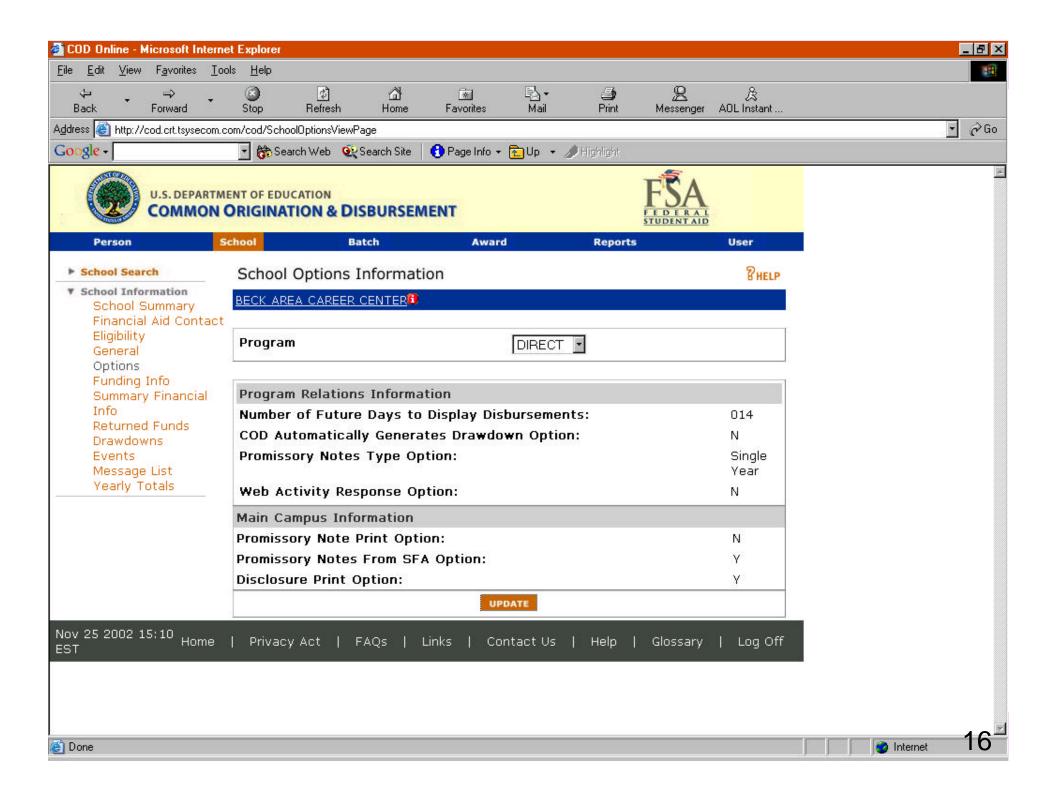


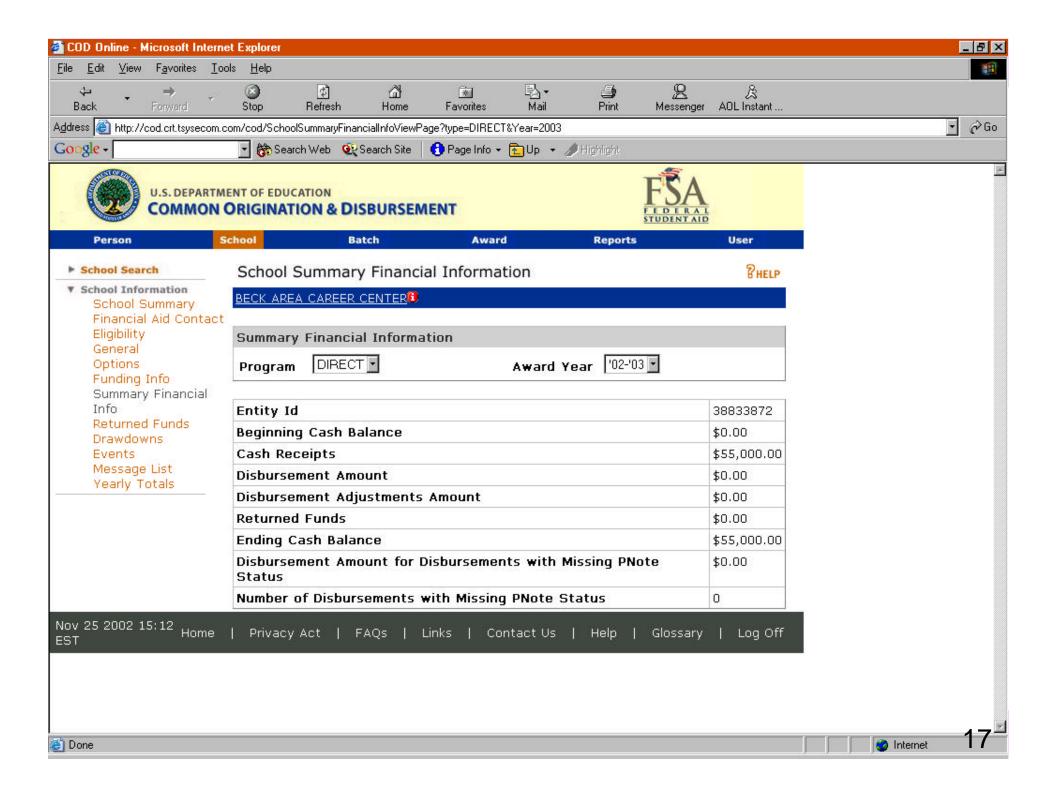


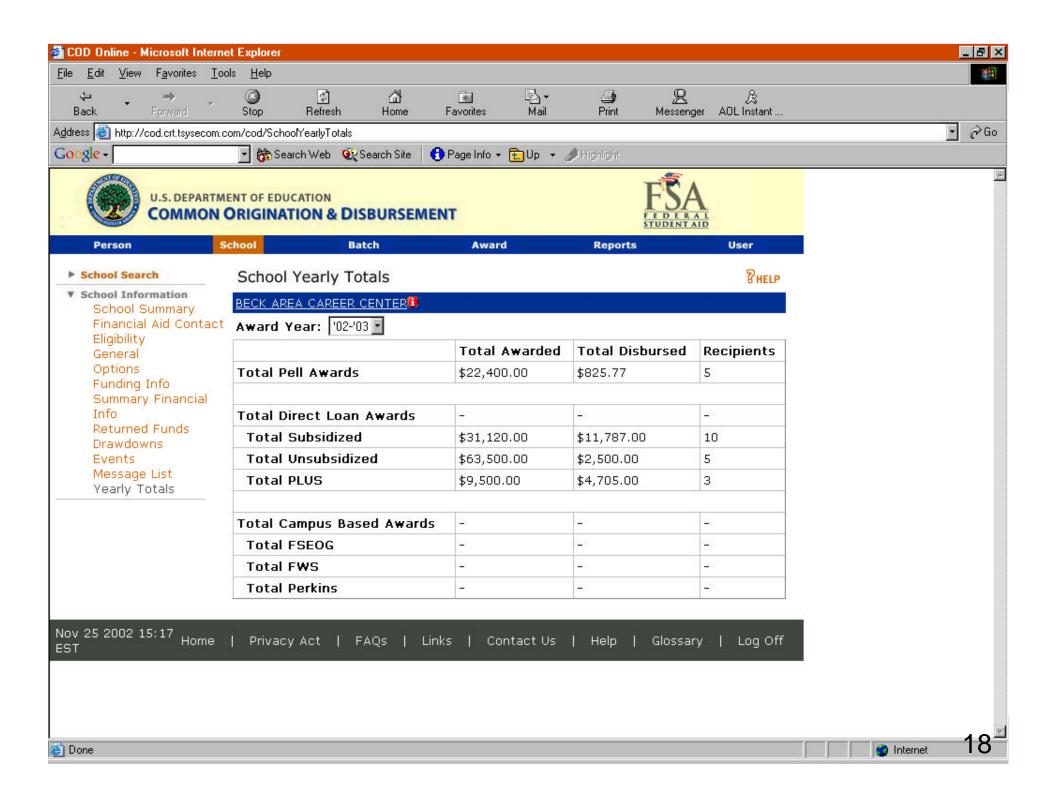


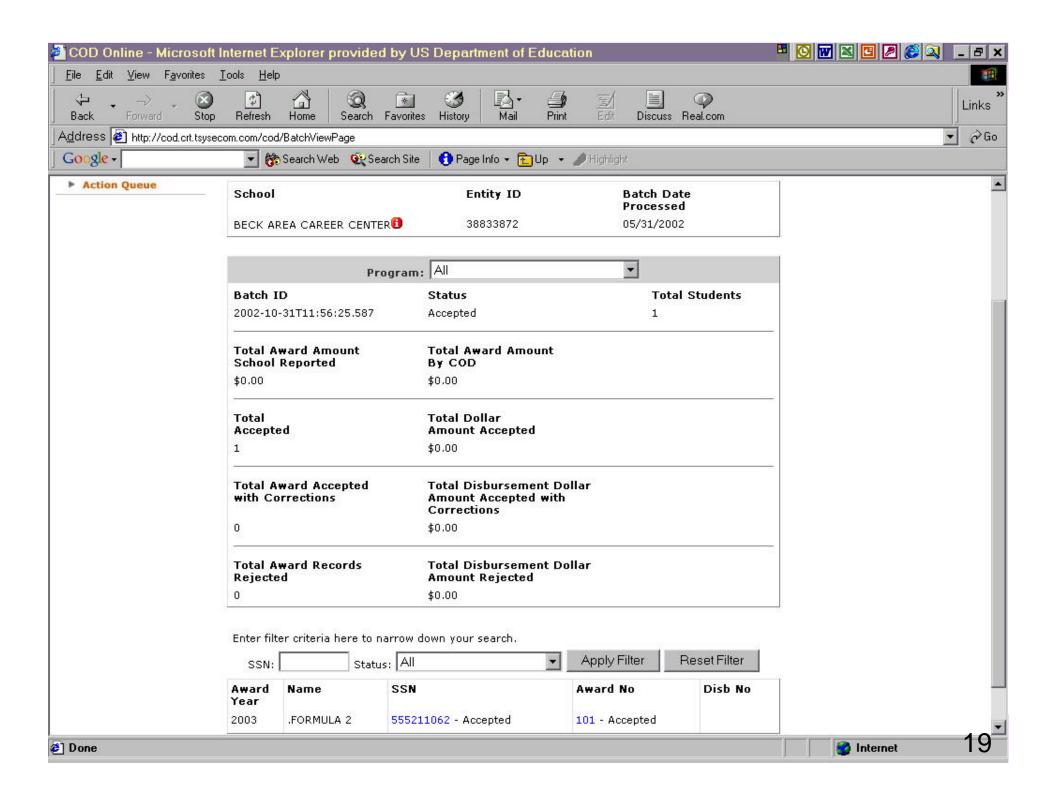


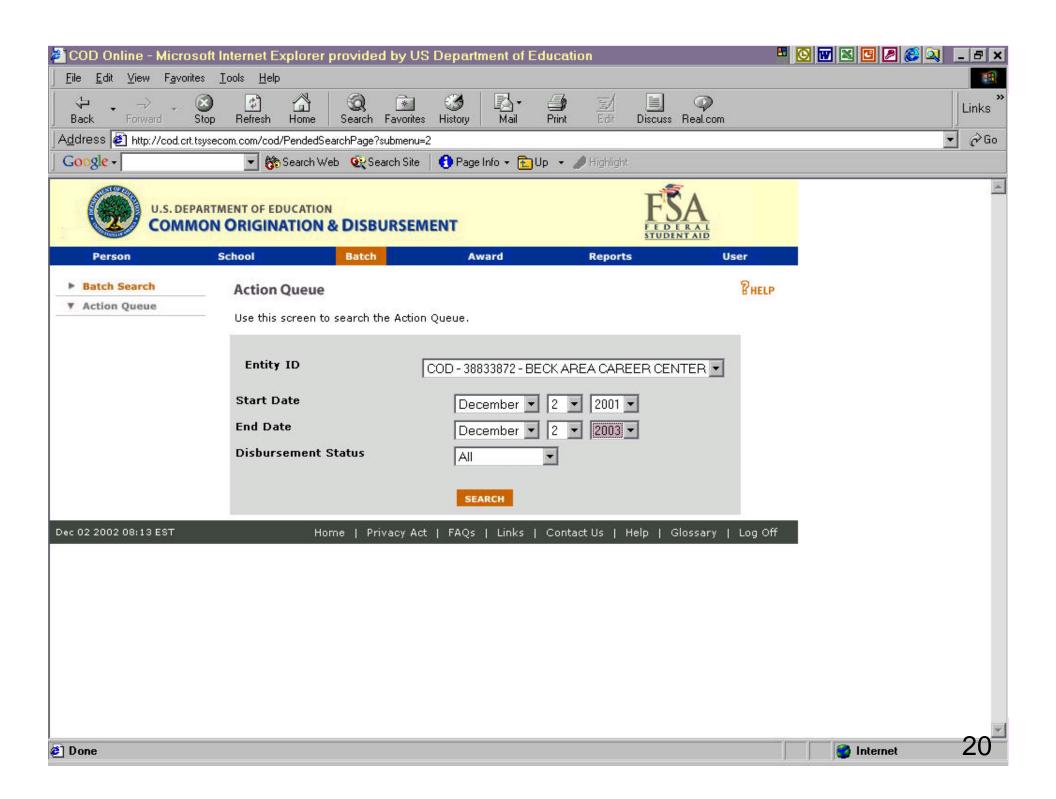


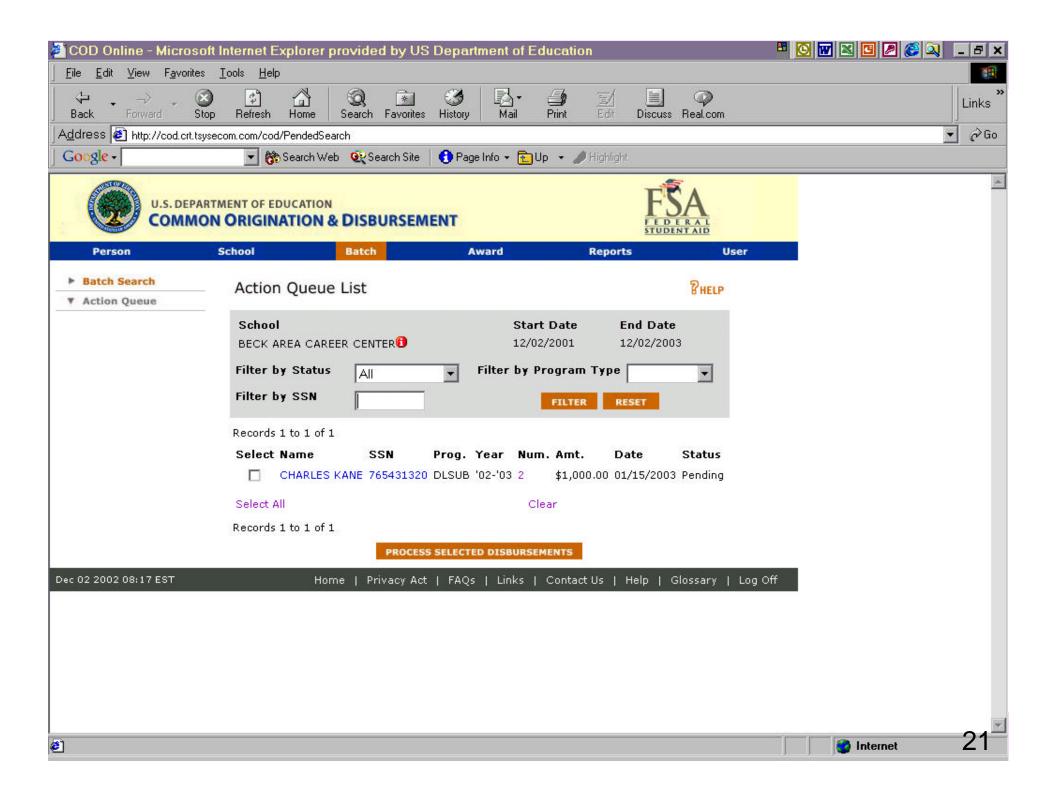


















# What's Planned for 2003-2004?

- Common Record Layout
  - Modified Tag Names
    - Eliminating abbreviations from tag names (FFEL community, PESC request)
  - ➤ New Tags
    - Endorser Amount
    - OPE ID
- EDExpress
  - Full Participant in 2003-2004
    - Software Modified to support XML Common Record

# What's Planned for 2003-2004?

- Direct Loan Changes
  - Entrance Counseling
    - Moved to Direct Loan Servicing Website
  - Promissory Notes
    - PLUS Loan MPN
    - PLUS Loan eMPN
  - ▶ Pennies
    - Schools have the option to report pennies for Direct Loans
- Pell Grant Changes
  - New Pell Verification Status Codes
    - "Blank" will be separated into two values: Not Selected and Selected, but Not Verified

#### COD Timeline

- 2003 2004 Development Schedule:
  - Requirements Complete July 2002
  - ➤ Design Complete September 2002
  - ➤ Development Complete November 2002
  - ➤ School/Vendor Testing: February 2003
  - ➤ System Start Up: March 2003

### EDExpress for 2003-04

- EDExpress is a PC-based software product
- EDExpress Suite includes:
  - Global
  - Application Processing
  - Packaging
  - Direct Loan
  - Pell
- Additional products:
  - Return to Title IV
  - QA Tools
  - DL Tools
  - SSCR

#### EDExpress for 2003-04

#### ■ Important Release Dates:

➤ Global/App Processing December 2002

➢ Packaging Module December 2002

➤ Pell/Direct Loan modules March 2003

➤ Quality Analysis tool May 2003

➤ Direct Loan tools June 2003

# Changes to Accommodate COD in 2003-04

- Setup
  - School Identifiers
  - Disbursement Profiles
  - Funding method
- Origination—some names change
  - Batches called Documents
  - Acknowledgements called Responses
- Disbursements
  - Disbursement Activity Type
  - Pell and Direct Loan functionality will become more similar

# Direct Loan/Pell Changes for 2003-04

- EDExpress will be a full participant for Direct Loan/Pell Payment in 2003-2004
  - send/receive Origination and Disbursement data to/from COD using the Common Record XML format.
- Important: External Add/Change Import
  - will be kept in a Flat File format
  - schools will NOT have to change their current technology in order to participate if using these functions.

# Direct Loan/Pell Changes for 2003-04

- EDExpress will have only three Export types (all the same message class)
  - Pell only records
  - Direct Loan only records
  - All records (DL & Pell) "ready" to be batched
- EDExpress will have only one Import Type for Origination/Disbursement
  - All origination ("edit only") records, all disbursement records and all change records come back in one message class

### How can I be involved in future projects?

(please pick up contact handout as you exit)

- Focus Groups
- Usability Tester
- Beta Tester
  - Software
- Beta Reviewer
  - Documentation

### Outreach and Training



- State & Regional Association briefings
- Focus groups
- Software Developers' conferences
- Electronic Access Conference sessions
- User Group presentations
- Spring Conference
- Tools for Ensuring Program Integrity (day 2)





#### Customer Service

# COD School Relations Center opened on April 29, 2002

First two months' activity:

Total Inbound Calls	6,832

- Average Speed of Answer13 sec
- Total Outreach Calls 9,371
- Total number of Web user IDs requested 1,435

#### Customer Service

- What are you calling about?
  - 1. Pending Credit Checks
  - 2. Promissory Note Issues
  - 3. Batch Rejects/Missing Batch
- What are you emailing about?
  - 1. Credit Checks pending status
  - 2. Requesting passwords reset
  - 3. Promissory Note Issues
  - 4. How to get access to COD
- Total of 86 staff at the center to support Customer Service efforts

#### Transition Processing Reminders

- □ All 2001-2002 and prior award year data will be directed to the Loan Origination System or RFMS system.
- All 2002-2003 and following award year data regardless of common record adoption will be directed to the COD system for processing.
- □ The Loan Origination and Pell Grant Customer Service Centers remain open to support prior award year processing.

#### School Support Representatives Assignments

- Calls routed by your school or vendor code to assigned teams
- Teams are currently structured by process
  - Direct Loan and Pell schools
  - Pell only schools
  - Full Participants (includes vendors coding FP version)
  - Pell only schools with 3<sup>rd</sup> party servicer
  - Pell/Direct Loan schools with 3<sup>rd</sup> party servicer
- Moving Forward
  - Now assigning representatives to specific schools within a team
  - Continue to monitor call volumes and support needs and rebalance assignments as necessary.

#### Behind the Scenes

- Calls are tracked on the COD system.
- Issues are opened if school representative can not resolve the issue during the phone call.
- Other resources are engaged to resolve the issue:
  - Support Specialists
  - Business Analysts
  - Technical Support Specialists
- Customer Service will provide updates on a regular basis.
- Random quality control checks occur to ensure you received a resolution.
- Management reports of issues and aging are produced daily to track responsiveness.

### Communication & Support

#### All Customers:

- COD Web Site Postings
- P-Messages (for Pell related problems)
- Direct Loan Bulletins
- Call Campaigns when necessary
- E-Mail (being explored as an option)

# For those coding the XML Common Record in 2002-2003, in addition:

- Biweekly Conference Calls
- E-mailed call minutes and technical answers
- Tailored communication with FSA testing team



### Contact Information

### For future involvement in EDExpress projects

Email: CPS@ncs.com

Subject:

- Beta Test
- Focus Group
- Usability Test

**Note:** In the message, list the modules or applications in which you are interested. If you've indicated Beta Test, please tell us what type of system setup you have.

## To talk to COD Customer Service

Email: codsupport@afsa.com Subject: 03-04 Full Participant OR

Call: 1-800-4-P-GRANT Call: 1-800-848-0978

Enter award year 2002-2003 (too soon for voice response unit to recognize 03-04)